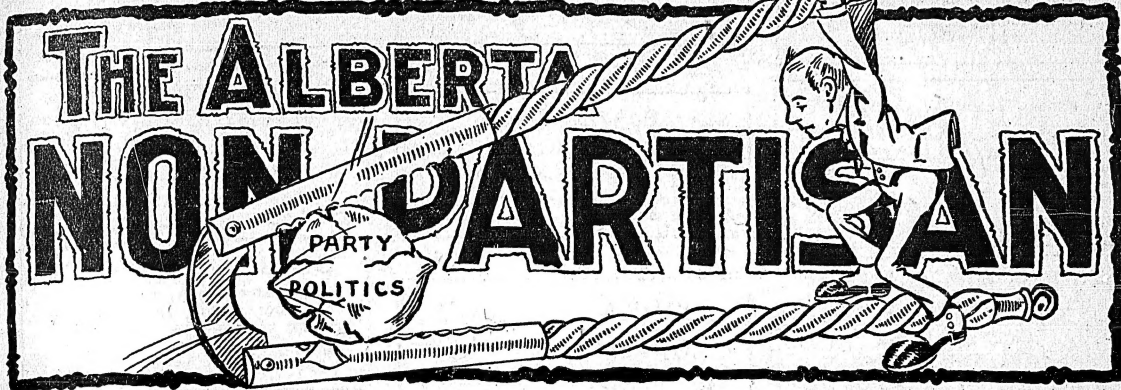


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VOL. 2



CALGARY, FEBRUARY 8, 1918

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A PRAYER FROM THE TRENCHES

I ask no sign or record of Renown;
I seek not Fame for deeds I may perform;
But this I ask, while hellish voices drown
The raging havoc of War's thunder-storm:--
Peace; and a cottage fire;
Love; and a quiet nest;
These do my Soul desire:
Peace, Labor, Love and . . . Rest!
Rest from this tragic Hate;
Rest from the Battle's Lust;
Rest from the soldier's Fate--
Rest from War's blinding dust!
Life . . . and its Honest Face;
Life . . . as the Great God meant--
For every Man . . . a Place, . . .
Peace . . . Labor . . . and
Content!

—BERT HUFFMAN.

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The strenuous opposition of the Ministerial Association to the proposal to violate the early closing by-law on Wednesday afternoon during U.F.A. week.

"Morning Albertan" headlines:—"Another glorious chapter is added to history of Mounted Police; Hold off striking mob."

Same paper, same day, same page: "Iron heel stamps out Labor's just demands. Big strike in Germany is ended throughout the Empire."—Consistency, thou art a jewel!

Carvell, in New York, stating Canada's greatest problem was—"Finance!"

The Union government abolishing patronage.

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CURRENT HISTORY

SIFTON. AND THE PATRONAGE SYSTEM

We all recall how, with dulcet tone and quivering lip, Hon. Arthur L. Sifton, on the eve of the last Dominion Election, told us of the coming abolition of the Patronage System through the election of the proposed new Union Government. Arthur, night and morning, prays that his left hand might never know what his right hand doeth. When he is on an election platform he bloweth his wind where he listeth, but though he knoweth where it cometh from, he does not care where it goes providing it helps to elect him. So cool, calm, and collected, he said: "Behold, I abolish the Patronage System, I press the button, Presto, change! It is gone."

A few short weeks elapse and Sifton is in office as Minister of Customs and the Siftonian organ of this city announces that Sifton has selected Mr. Quayle as his Private Secretary. Now, for years "Glory" Quayle has been a "party hack" in this Province—hacking from one end to the other for the Sifton Government. His selection for this position is a reward for his party fidelity to Mr. Sifton. This is the first step in the abolition of the Patronage system.

Then, just recently, we trust it is not true, there comes the rumor that Mr. W. J. Harmer, Supt. of Telephones in the Province of Alberta, is to be made a Senator. Harmer has acted, for some time, in a listening post as political observation officer for the Hon. A. L. Sifton. Anything that Arthur told him to do he did and he did it with alacrity. It did not make any difference what it was, he was deft in execution. He was ductile in action. He bent like a Sifton bow before the pull of the Sifton string and his reward comes swift and sure in the way of an appointment as a Senator. So endeth party patronage plank No. 2, of Arthur L. Sifton, brother of Clifford Sifton, owner of the Unionist Political Party.

It is a part of the idea of the Merit System that vacancies which occur in a Department should be filled by men within the department trained for the position through service in the work of that department. Sifton is Minister of Customs. The collectorship of the port of Montreal recently became vacant. It is one of the best political appointments in the Dominion of Canada. Did Mr. Sifton as the head of that department, appoint a man to the position from the ranks of the workers in the Department of Customs of Canada? No, he did not. The election is over now and Sifton, who speaking with tongue in cheek, promised to abolish the patronage system when he spoke at the Grand Theatre in Calgary, appointed to this choice office one Alderman W. S. Weldon of Montreal, a man who withdrew in favor of C. C. Ballantyne as a candidate in the last election and who thus won his spurs as Collector of Customs. Three cheers for Arthur Sifton, the patronage killer of the new Unionist party.

And this is only the third instalment we have received of patronage as it is and probably as it is to be under the Unionist Government.

TAXATION OF CHURCHES

Eastern Canada is not so slow. All the minions of privilege are not located there. The people are all right if they have a chance of expressing their opinion but old forms hold them down and sometimes the opinion, sound as it may be, fails to find expression.

At the last Municipal Election in the City of London the people voted upon a proposal to tax all exempted properties, public as well as such semi-public institutions as churches, hospitals, etc.

It was not a snatch vote, as the ratepayers were all furnished with exact information by the City Clerk, Mr. S. Baker, of the assessment of exempted properties, amounting (including lands and buildings) to a total of \$6,426,336, which at the 1917 tax rate of 28 mills on the dollar, would have amounted to \$179,937. In all 66 churches were listed, the amount of exemptions being as follows:—

Roman Catholic	\$ 207,200.00
Salvation Army	26,400.00
Anglican	237,650.00
Baptist	73,100.00
Congregational	23,500.00
Methodist	304,300.00
Presbyterian	198,000.00
Jewish	9,250.00
Miscellaneous	43,800.00

A large vote, representative of all parts of the city, was polled, and the result, as furnished by City Clerk Baker, was: For the taxation of exempted properties 5,678 against 1,929. The Ontario Legislature will be asked to amend the Assessment Act so that the city can carry out its wishes.

Definite action in regard to the same policy should be taken by the City of Calgary. The exemption of church property from taxation is a curse upon the church itself and it is in the interests of the churches specially that we plead for its abolition.

The church should be free from the insinuation of tax dodging. It should be able to speak with a clear voice and no institution living on charity, so far as taxation is concerned can do this.

* * *

SAM'S PICTURE

We understand that a large oil painting of Mr. Sam Hughes, equipped with military uniform, Ross rifle, Ames-Holden shoes, bunk binoculars and sundry other equipment, including the Sam Hughes' spade, is to be hung in the Parliament buildings at Ottawa in memory of the Ex-Minister—the greatest Canada has ever produced. We understand this painting is to be made by an American artist who has for some years been painting the signs on the wagons and other agricultural implements of the International Harvester Co. Many will recall the mural designs which have from time to time decorated these beautiful boxes of variegated colors.

The paints are to be supplied by the Sherman-Williams Co. of Montreal, of which Mr. C. C. Ballantyne is President, and when it is all done, it will receive a coat of varnish from the same source, and any white-wash required in the composition will be supplied in the form of a eulogy provided by Hon. Newton Wesley Rowell, the eulogizer and paragrapher of the Union Party.

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A BANKER'S ETHICS

In these days, when the parrot cry of "Democracy" ascends unceasingly from pulpit, press and platform, when autocrats, aristocrats, and plutocrats are vying with each other in doffing the purple and covering up their shortcomings with the khaki cloak of patriotism, while they hide their undiminished heads beneath the Phrygian cap of liberty, it is almost a relief, despite the maxim "Qui s'excuse, s'accuse," to occasionally meet with a frank apologist of the old order, stalking forth naked and unashamed.

Such a one, in the person of Sir Edmund Walker, in the course of his annual presidential address to the shareholders of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, has contributed the following cogent arguments in support of things as they are.

"At the present moment the world produces wealth and material comfort on a scale so vast, when compared with conditions a century ago, that surely no one will deny that the energy and the laws that have made this possible have been as a whole of enormous benefit to humanity. Yet this improvement in conditions is created by an appeal to the self interest which exists in us all. To produce the best that we are able and sell it for the highest price we can get, is what we are all trying to do.

That the free exercise of industry and ability in accordance with the laws of the country and with the best existing standards of character, will enable one man to become very rich and another to earn only enough to support his family, is a fact for which nature is mainly responsible, and for which the ingenuity of man has not thus far found a remedy. Let us judge those who possess great wealth by the extent to which they regard it as a trust which came to them only because they were in some things abler than their fellows."

Surely so much popular fallacy was never before compressed into so few words, and one wonders whether, when the shareholders were subsequently informed that the Bank had in the year just closed, netted a profit of \$2,637,555.43, they dispersed with the comfortable conviction that this plum had fallen to them as the due reward of their superior ability.

It would be difficult to point to any period of history when the "ablest" man, in the truest sense of the word, received the greatest pecuniary reward, which has usually gone to those best qualified to exploit their more able fellows, though possibly it might be advanced, with some show of logic, that the exploiter thereby proved himself the abler man, and it may

be that in claiming for his class superiority only in some things, exploitation was one of the things that Sir Edmund had in mind.

There is an apparent contradiction in the suggestion that wealth misses some and falls to others only because of their superior ability, as compared with Sir Edmund's earlier remark that riches, like Dogberry's writing and reading, "come by nature," but here again it may be that what is intended to be conveyed, is that the superior endowments in the first case come by nature, and the riches follow as a result of the free exercise of those endowments. How this applies in these days of joint stock enterprise, when any fool can double his capital in a matter of five or ten years, by the simple expedient of handing it over to his banker for investment in gilt edged securities, the speaker did not attempt to explain.

But what shall we say of Sir Edmund's naive admission that, to him and his like, the appeal to self-interest is the primary motive of all human action. Here is the economic interpretation of history with a vengeance. Surely the most casual survey of past and passing history should suffice to dispel this illusion, based though it may be, like all error, on a modicum of truth.

Possibly Sir Edmund bases his view of human nature mainly upon the successful business type with which he is doubtless most conversant, but we would hesitate to form so low a view even of that somewhat debased type of humanity as to suggest that they have for their sole object in life the selling of all that is best in them for the highest price obtainable. And what shall be said of the millions who have in the past few years sacrificed their lives, perhaps not entirely from the highest or purest of motives, but certainly with no such sordid end in view as that to which Sir Edmund attributes all human action and improvement.

But such an outlook on life, if held by any considerable proportion of the ruling class, in this and other countries, would in our estimation, go far to explain the impasse into which human society has finally drifted.

SAME IN CANADA?

Bernard Shaw says: "Political democracy has not been undertaken in England to set the people free, but to give everybody a chance of entering that charmed circle which the nobility had established, where one is above the law and had no need to work. This is one reason why democracy was the appalling sham it is, and one of the vital reasons why present injustices are not swept away is the desire of everybody to get into that circle. What are we to do with such people?"

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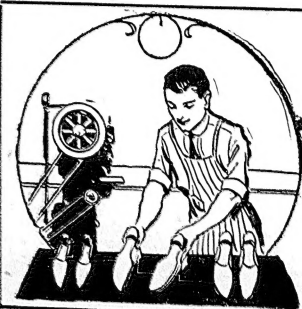
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"There is no wealth but life. That country is the richest which nourishes the greatest number of noble and happy human beings."—Ruskin.

U. F. A. BALKS AT WAR AIMS

The great annual convention of the U. F. A., looked forward to by business men for business reasons, welcomed by all progressive thinkers, and watched closely by office-seeking politicians, has come and gone, but left behind an influence which, on the whole, we believe to be for the good of Canada. Much credit must be given them for the admirable spirit of the convention, as expressed in many of the important resolutions which were brought up.

It may be considered unfair to pass over all the good resolutions and to settle our criticism on perhaps the only one in which the convention fell far short of expectations. We do this, however, simply because to speak of all the good things the U. F. A. did would take too much space, and also because the question upon which they fell down is of paramount importance at the present time. This was a resolution brought in by one of the delegates, the import of which was that the convention state its position on the war aims of Canada.

The labor unions of Great Britain have tackled this question courageously, and the influence of their statements will have a profound effect upon subsequent allied war councils. They have declared against Imperialism, against indemnities, against extension of territories, and demand the Federation of nations for the purpose of maintaining the future peace of the world.

Agriculture is the basic industry of this Dominion, in consequence of which the farmers' union will take the place of the great industrial unions of Great Britain. As the representative organization of workers, the masses of the Canadian people are beginning to look to the farmers to take the lead on all great issues of national importance.

It is, therefore, much to be regretted that the U. F. A. should have been silent upon such a momentous question as that of the nature of the peace that should follow this great conflict. If they don't know, who does? Is it not a sign of weakness, and of our own inability to manage our own affairs, when we leave the aims of peace and war to find their settlement at the hands of politicians and secret diplomats?

It is the farmers' duty both to know and at this time to state what he knows. The U. F. A. has pledged itself to increase production and to do all in its power to further the military operations. Surely they are not doing this blindly, and surely they are not satisfied to leave the settlement of peace, as usual, to politicians. Why did they not state clearly the end for which they so willingly pledge their support? We had nothing to say with regard to the beginning of this war, but we have earned our right to have something to say regarding the end of it, and we should strive to redeem the ideals which have been rhetorically expressed by leading statesmen of Great Britain and of other Allied countries, but which have never yet been reduced to a practical basis upon which we could reasonably hope to conduct a lasting world peace.

In refusing to deal with this question, the U. F. A. was not only weak, but missed a splendid opportunity of expressing the democratic wishes of the Canadian people in respect to peace.

FAILURE OF GOVERNMENT OWNERSHIP IS DEMONSTRATED.

We note that the Union Government is making at least a pretence to meet the demands of the Canadian people with regard to government ownership of railroads, but as we naturally expected, they have decided to confine themselves to appropriating cripples, these who are already bankrupt.

The usual result of plutocratic government control of a public utility is to prove that public ownership is a failure. This was done in the case of the Manitoba elevators, and it seems as if a similar method is about to be adopted with regard to the railroads. The process is easy.

The government buys all the unprofitable railroads, allowing the great corporation, the C. P. R., to continue its exploitation. In cases where railroads run parallel, and on such parts where trade is good, they sell such parts to the C. P. R., to save duplication, and, in the interests of economy to win the war, thus leaving the most unprofitable parts of an unprofitable railroad to be operated by the government at a loss. Following this a balance sheet will be prepared to submit to the people at the next election, which will prove conclusively that government ownership of railroads is a failure.

We have, however, the examples of other countries who, for many years, have run efficient railroads, giving great service to the people, with strictest economy, and, therefore, we are not likely to be as gullible on this matter as we have been on many others. The Canadian people, we believe, have bought and paid for several times over, the C. P. R., and that not only as a war measure, but as a measure in the interests of efficiency and justice, they will demand that this railroad be taken over by the government.

* * *

P. R. DIFFICULTIES VANISH

The only argument to date which has been of any convincing character, against Proportional Representation, is that we cannot obtain the returns of the election as speedily as under the old method. We believe, of course, that it is better to wait over night and discover that the real representatives of the people have been elected, than to instantaneously be notified that those who represent a minority of the people have gained power.

But, as this view does not seem to be sufficient for some people, we would like to state two simple methods, either one of which would dodge the difficulty above stated. The first is, that on the evening of the election those who would be elected under the old method (this is not difficult to determine) should be announced, and on the following morning the names of those who have gained their position by the more democratic method be duly made public.

The second way out of the difficulty is perhaps even more adequate still, and that is that we hold the election the day before, or to be more explicit, let us assume that election day is fixed for October 19th, 1918. We should, therefore, vote on October 18th, and thus the result would be out even in advance of the time required by the old method.

DR. CLARK'S LOGIC Recently Dr. Clark addressed the People's Forum, Calgary, and made a speech which was famous for its number of words, its scarcity of ideas, and the antiquity of the ideas that were expressed. It was rich, indeed, to hear once more the rehearsal of the little stories that old women used to tell against Socialism, when we were a boy two-hundred years ago.

He used sacred sentimentality, frequently appealing to the forty thousand graves in Flanders as a means of covering up the pertinent questions which confront Canada at this time, but perhaps the most interesting feature of the whole address was Dr. Clark's spectacular mental acrobatics. We select three examples of this politician's tragic plight.

Dr. Clark said that he was still the champion of Free Trade, but denies any necessity for the prevention of land speculation. It should be clear to anyone assuming the ability to lead in the fight for Free Trade, that a direct tax on land values will be a necessary corollary of Free Trade, and with this would inevitably follow the end of speculation in land.

Again, Dr. Clark, in constructing the proverbial straw man and calling him a Socialist, slams the Bolshevik government, by saying that Russia needed a little government to-day, implying that Socialists contended that all government could be done away with, and cited Russia's plight as an argument against Socialism, while in this reply to a question put during the discussion, said that Socialists wanted the government to do everything; in other words, Socialists were all government. Intellectuals please reconcile.

We save the best one until last, like the good wine. Dr. Clark stated, with his usual oratorical flourish, that no principle or gospel was worth the preaching that could not be universalized. This, of course, is an admirable idea, and is one of the philosophic maxims of the famous German philosopher, Kant, but, strange to say, when Dr. Clark was asked a question regarding the application of this principle to the Germans, he could not carry it beyond the trenches in Flanders. We are not quarrelling with him for stopping at the trenches with his application, but simply pointing out that he has condemned his own gospel in his own words, for inasmuch as it could not be universalized it was not worth the preaching.

A BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION FOR THE PROVINCE

The elimination of party politics in the province is becoming quite a respectable doctrine to advocate. Even our sedate contemporary, the "Calgary Daily Herald," is beginning to flirt with the idea, and comments very favorably in its editorial columns on suggestions put forward by one of its readers.

The first item on the official program of the Non-Partisan Political League is the following: "The overthrow of party politics, and the establishment of a business administration in the provincial house."

This was made an issue by the Non-Partisan candidates at the last provincial election, and two of them, Mrs McKinney and James Weir, were elected for the constituencies of Clares-Claresholm and Nanton, pledged to work for this consummation at Edmonton. This almost justifies the hope that the "Herald" will support those two members on this question which is sure to be discussed during the coming session of the Legislature.

The patronage system with all its debasing and undemocratic ramifications is a natural concomitant of party politics, and only the elimination of the latter in provincial affairs will clear out this anomaly in a province which is supposed to have an independent and comparatively democratic electorate.

The idea of opposing a measure because it is proposed by the opposite party, without any consideration of merit, is, we hope, almost defunct in Alberta. Our representatives are elected or should be elected to propose and enact legislation in the interests of the people and the province as a whole, and not for the glorification of any political party.

* * *

THE CHURCH AND SOCIAL SERVICE.

The church has been the object of a great deal of destructive criticism during the past few weeks, much of which, no doubt, is deserved. The stand of the ministers on many public questions (when they have definitely committed themselves) has not tended to inspire confidence in the minds of the people. We must recognize, however, that many clergymen, year in and year out, are devoting their time and talents to church work, ineffective as it may be, in the belief that this service is the greatest that they can perform to the community. The motives of those men are above suspicion, but their methods of putting into prac-

tice their Christian ideals leave very much to be desired. It is regrettable that the Ministerial Association has recently seen fit to exclude the press from the meetings as this would imply that something was being discussed which would not stand public scrutiny. They should rather welcome full publicity, and invite laymen to take part in their discussions. The Social Service League of the churches is, we believe, the movement that will divert much of the church's energy into those channels where its influence will be felt on the economic problems which lie at the base of all human endeavor. The importance of this work is recognized by Dr. Geo. T. Webb, secretary of religious education of the Baptist Union of Western Canada, who said at a recent meeting: "Reformatory movements are imminently desirable, but constructive study, with a view to Christianizing all human relationships is fundamental in the social service program of the church." The speaker also admitted that while the churches had been active in the effort to close the bars and restrict common immoral practices, they had not been so studious of the character of general social relationships that should mark an institution founded on the principles of human brotherhood.

As yet, the social service movement is in its inception, but its possibilities are great, and if the enthusiasm generally evinced during "social service week" could be maintained all the year round, much would be accomplished. President Wilson's now famous words could be altered, and the slogan "to make Democracy safe for the world," adopted by this movement.

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The Non-Partisan Movement

NON-PARTISAN PUBLIC MEETING

The farmers and delegates attending the U.F.A. Convention in Calgary, were given the opportunity of not only hearing the "star" speakers of the League, but also of catching a glimpse of the idealism that is the driving force of the Movement.

Wm. Irvine stated it was just a year since he had the honor of making the maiden speech in Alberta for the League and the Non-Partisan movement. The organization and the movement has come a long milestone on the road to the ultimate disappearance of party politics since then, much further than those intrepid spirits who had dared to found the movement had ever thought would be possible. As Mrs. McKinney emphasized, it had proved to be the spontaneous expression of the people and had the League not come into existence then something else would have risen.

Mr. C. W. McDonnell, a member of the North Dakota Legislature, who has been visiting his father at Loughheed, Alta., had promised to be also present, but unfortunately was called back to Dakota just a few days previously. The meeting exceeded expectations both in point of attendance and the enthusiastic reception accorded the speakers, and as it was representative from all parts of the Province, where the League is well known and not known, was a good augury for the future success of the movement.

We are not able to report the speeches in full but give gems of thought from each speaker for the benefit of our readers.

EXTRACTS FROM SPEECHES AT NON-PARTISAN RALLY

Mr. Galbraith; "The first thought that came to me was contained in a sentence from the Life of Darwin—'In the fulness of time came Darwin.' Had Darwin come a hundred years before he did, he would have been burned at the stake. Had he been one year later than he was the works of Wallace would have been published and there would have been no such thing as Darwinism. To-day we are still working on that theory of evolution. Darwin did not start this theory, it was coming along."

"And so our little Non-Partisan League, which has come out to further the cause of democracy, has not discovered a new thing—it is world wide. And as evolution came when the people were ready for it, so soon will democracy come to us—just as soon as we are ready for it, and no sooner."

Mr. Weir; "The question of the farmer in politics is the greatest question that faces thinking people to-day. If you will undertake to take sufficient interest in the problems of the day to study them out, then you will have taken the first step towards the amelioration of the conditions by which we have suffered and been imposed upon—lo, these many years."

"The crucial period with you in the term of your existence is going to be the reconstruction period when this war is over. Through you, and through you alone can your conditions be ameliorated. I want to bring home to you the necessity of your being continually on the watch

tower, in order that advantage may not be taken, that interests unfriendly to your own may so entrench themselves that it will take generations after the war to get back to where we were. I have been urging class cohesion and class consciousness so that you will not allow yourselves to be divided by issues concocted by politicians."

"I have just this word to leave with you: I want you to keep me fed up with what is on your minds that ought to be placed on the statute books, for the betterment of the province. We want to keep enough work before that Legislature.

to the end that we may have a better rural and a better urban Alberta, better health, better homes, to leave to our children a better Alberta than we found."

Mrs. McKinney; "I stand to-night on the platform of the Farmers' Non-Partisan League. I wonder if that means anything to you. About forty years ago Frances Willard stood on the platform at a large meeting of the W.C.T.U.

That was the first occasion when Frances Willard made any public pronouncement of her stand in the cause of Women's Suffrage, and she said that feeling as she felt, secretly espousing the cause, in the days when it was unpopular, and women and men who believed in it were receiving criticism, she felt that it would be cowardly for her to keep quiet any longer. The chairman rose immediately after and said that she wished it distinctly understood that the sentiments expressed were entirely on the speaker's own responsibility. The W.C.T.U. was in no way responsible. To-night there stands on the platform here the president of the provincial W.C.T.U. The world is moving. Sentiment is advancing."

"Now what are we—that question is being asked. The remark was made to me: 'This was the psychological moment in which to launch your League.' The League was not launched at all in that sense—the Non-Partisan League is the spontaneous expression of the people to-day, and if the League had not come into existence to give the people a channel through which they could have expressed themselves, something else would have come. It is not a shadow of the moment, not a freak, not a spasm, but it is a movement that furnishes the channel through which the thought of the people can be expressed to-day."

"I thought you people were organized because you were not satisfied with economic conditions. Other people expressed it in less elegant language—'The farmers are a set of grouchers, and you could not do anything to satisfy them.' We will admit that we were organized primarily for economic reasons. What is there that was not organized along those lines? We find that we must organize along those lines if we are to have anything to do with the Governments, because perhaps the Government's biggest business has to do with commerce.

"Everything you go into, you don't go very far before you run against a snag that you didn't know was there—sometimes pleasant, sometimes otherwise."

"I believe that independent thinking and voting is the best way to cure ourselves

of that disease known as the 'mental warp'. Alberta will be a better place, the reconstruction will be better carried through because a few people have espoused an unpopular cause."

Mr. Irvine: "You know we had an election. It was an election by 'selective draft.'"

"No movement that is worth while, that is far enough ahead of the rank and file to be worth troubling with, is ever successful at the first chance."

"The conditions surrounding this present Government are such as to force the present administration to do many of the things that we advocated in the Non-Partisan League."

"The greatest necessity of the Allies at the present time is that Canada should become the central producing power of the Allies for wheat and other foodstuffs."

The election cry was: 'We are going to win the war by taking a hundred thousand men and putting them into the front line.' One hundred thousand men in the front lines would be of very little use.

They will either have to ship in coolies, to do the work, who will be here when our boys come back from the war, or they will have to keep the men here to grow wheat to feed those who are fighting at the present time in Flanders.

"The aim of this movement is—that we exist merely for what we can do, not for our own sake. What care we if the Union Government will give us a business administration, will nationalize the railways, (instead of winning the war by giving a freight increase of fifteen per cent.) We care not who gives us what we want or who gets the credit for doing so.

Obviously a political organization is just as necessary, and can do as much good in its own way as the industrial organizations can do for the workers, or the U.F.A. along co-operative lines."

"I want to point out a few of the things that stand before us in a country that is supposed to be theoretically at least, democratic. We want a type of government that will give to the people what they want. They may not know what they want. But the only way to learn to govern yourself is to try. If I always allow Mr. Tweedie and R. B. Bennett to jump into the swimming pool for me, I will never learn to swim. The only way that the people will ever learn to govern themselves is to take the plunge and learn by their mistakes."

"Then there are the voters' lists, fearfully and wonderfully made.

We want proportional representation, that will do away with the gerrymandering, that you have perhaps noticed.

These, I believe, constitute the machinery of democracy that is indispensable to a people that is going first of all to know what it wants, and then to get it. If you don't know what you want, get something you don't want, and then when you have got it you will surely know whether you want it or not."

THE DIFFERENCE

"When a man wants to murder a tiger he calls it sport; when the tiger wants to murder him he calls it ferocity. The distinction between Crime and Justice is no greater."

—BERNARD SHAW.

NON-PARTISAN POLITICS

A MESSAGE TO OUR MEMBERS

A WIDER DEMOCRACY

By Mrs. L. C. McKinney, M.L.A.

The Farmers' Non-Partisan League was organized primarily with the idea of bettering the economic conditions under which the farmer is working. Those who saw most clearly the need of such change argued that if farmers' organizations as they already exist have accomplished so much then a farmers' political organization could do vastly more.

The Government of a country and its commercial interests are of necessity vitally connected, and he who would gain any control over the one must at least be a determining factor in the other. Since economic conditions are reflected in our great commercial system, and since the time has come when the farmer and his interests must receive consideration in the working out of this system, what is more logical than that the farmer should organize politically and thus place himself in a position to assume his fair share of the control of the Government.

But to-day no question can be considered from a purely personal or local view point, and the farmer finds that to accomplish what he has set out to do he must view the political situation as a whole and in so doing he discovers that the political changes necessary to meet his need are almost identical with those being sought after by workers in the other lines of production, and that all unconsciously he has caught step with other progressive factors in the nation's life, and has linked himself up with the greatest movement of the age—the fight for a wider democracy. This wider vision will keep him from becoming sordid or narrow in his ideas of the movement with which he has identified himself, and will enable him to more patiently and persistently work and wait for its final triumph.

One of the dangers that always threatens a new movement is that its supporters may become impatient of results, but we must remember that evils that have been fastening themselves upon our political life for half a century cannot be uprooted in a day, and it takes time to get the people awake to the fact that these evils exist and then more time to persuade them that only by concerted action can they be overcome. But once the people are thoroughly aroused, these results will speedily follow. The more diligent we are in spreading abroad the knowledge that has come to us and in "turning on the light" the sooner will the day of triumph for our cause be ushered in.

There is always the danger too that we may through compromise be switched from our original purpose. Let us remember that the things for which we stand are great basic principles. If we are to have direct legislative action then the Government must be controlled by the people and be run in the interests of the people. This is an impossibility under the party system as it exists to-day, for we are firmly convinced that the parties are controlled by the classes in the special interests of the classes,

so what we want is not merely an occasional bit of superficial legislation, though we gratefully accept all the good legislation that can come to us, but a direct change in the principles of government. When this has been accomplished then the improved legislation will follow as a matter of course, and we will find that time has not been lost in contending for the principle.

To save our people from weakening in their purpose and to insure permanency and effectiveness for our movement, we must strive to educate the farmers as a whole as to the fundamental principles on which we stand, and the special lines of democratic action to which we have addressed ourselves. It is one thing to have a vague idea that a change is needed, but quite a different matter to have an intelligent conception of the methods by which such a change can be brought about, and the hopeful sign is that we find an ever-increasing number of farmers who are well informed along these lines. When this condition becomes general, then will our movement have passed the experimental stage, and have become one of the permanent factors in our political and commercial life. Can we depend on you to help bring about this greatly-to-be-desired result?

WHY NON-PARTISANS WERE NOT ELECTED?

By Will Holmes

This is a question the answer to which is still prominent in our minds. It is as follows:—

The country was confronted with one supreme issue—"Win the War."

The Union Government asked for universal support so that it might be unhampered in carrying out its war policy—the dedication of every resource to that object.

The great opponent of the Union Government was Laurier. Not to vote Unionist or Liberal would be to lose, and no one liked to be on the losing side.

To vote Non-Partisan at this time would be unpatriotic, a vote to help the Kaiser.

We all believe in the Non-Partisan Movement and at any other time would be glad to support it.

One full month has passed since the election and we have had time to reflect and our reflection leads us to wonder how easily we were carried by the great patriotic stampede by which the old line parties swept down upon us, drummed about us with such a din that we could see or hear nothing else, held us spell-bound until the last vote was cast, and then calmly announced that we had to accept without redress just what was given us for the next five or six years.

Now that the din has ceased and we have rubbed our eyes, what do we see?

The noise and fireworks cost more money per voter than it costs for membership in the Non-Partisan League.

To secure this fund the candidate pledged himself—first, to carry out the legislation desired by the donor; second, to devote what energy was left to "Win the War," and in as far as was not inconsistent with either of these, to conserve the interests of his constituents.

In electing the Union Government with such unanimity we have tied its hands. Sir Robert Borden can not and dare not

conscript anything but the man-power of the country. If the farmers of the West had been alive to their patriotic duty they would have had several men with no strings upon them to assist in releasing the hands of the government and demanding in the name of the people that the sacrifice of every big corporation shall be commensurate with the sacrifice of the working-man's wife who has given her all to win the war.

Now, every farmer will pay from one hundred dollars a year upward into the thousands, in increased freight rates going and coming, for the privilege of being governed by the Union Government. To that extent production will be discouraged, voluntary gifts to patriotic movements curtailed and the Kaiser assisted.

The Non-Partisan Movement has entered the political field and we trust will continue in the field, sane, calm and free from prejudice. We are not kickers constitutionally as most independent movements are regarded. Our policy is to support Borden when it will help our cause and hasten the democracy for which we stand. We would just as gladly help Laurier to the same end. But we refuse to become entangled in their party game and will never hold them as under any obligation to us or will never consider ourselves under any obligation to them.

It is true that this is a national crisis. Something entirely new is being called into existence. The Union Government responded to the call, but at its first move it showed itself playing the old game of enriching the rich and impoverishing the poor. It has increased our burdens without any apparent justification. If anybody has a better idea of government than that embodied in the program of the N.P.L., let him bring it forward. The movement is yours—make it what you will, and then die for it. Civilization must be saved!



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COME TO STOP!!



The first Non-Partisan Representatives take their seats in the Alberta Legislature. Their entry into an assembly hitherto controlled by the machinery of party politics is being watched with great interest throughout the Province. Having signed their recall before election they are "the first REAL servants of the people."

GOOD COUNSEL

FROM A PROMINENT FARMER

"If the Non-Partisan League is apt to make a mistake, it is in going after too much at once," remarked Mr. L. H. Jelliff, of Raley, a leading farmer of the Lethbridge district, to a League organizer who waited upon him.

"I have joined the League because I am in sympathy with its objects as a farmer," and then he went on to recount some of the fights he had put up on behalf of his brother farmers before the Dominion Grain Commissioners.

"Adjustment of the railway problem cannot be made in a hurry. There are limitations to the enterprises of a general nature that the government can take hold of in these times. Any one of the propositions set forth in the program would require an expenditure of a vast amount of money on the part of the government, which means on the part of the people, and would also involve the selection of men of the utmost skill and experience to properly administer the various undertakings. The railway situation alone is of such vast proportions that it is all that a government could be expected to deal with at this critical period, and it is so intimately connected and interwoven with the other branches of industry mentioned

in the program of the League, that if properly dealt with the general relief would likewise be experienced in these other lines, and would warrant a postponement of action in reference thereto for some considerable time to come.

"The government would necessarily have to take over eventually the handling departments of grain and stock, as these are closely allied with the railway system.

"It is a very natural and easy thing for people generally to wish that all of these matters were under government ownership and control without deeply considering the vast interests involved in such action, and the difficulty which even a government might experience in dealing with these great concerns with a desired efficiency, just now, counsels caution. It is a time when caution is pre-eminently necessary, when intelligence is needed to prevent plunging beyond our depth into affairs with which the ordinary individual is very little acquainted.

"In advocating changes of system in various lines, when we feel we have experienced more or less grievances and hardships, we should be fairly certain of relieving ourselves from these evils and that they do not include therein the germs of errors or misconceptions which

might involve us in greater difficulties than do the systems of which we complain.

"Anything in the nature of a change or revolution in methods must be fully thought out in advance, or we may possibly find ourselves involved in some such state of confusion as confronts the unhappy people of Russia at the present moment. No doubt, too, in course of time the changes which they are undergoing will result in their advantage, but we can readily wish that their plans had been more thoroughly thought out and brought to a point where they would meet with general acceptance.

"It is well for the farmers to reflect that an entire change in the system of handling the business of the country might create serious consequences, as would an entire revolution in the manner of handling the farms themselves."

WAGES AND FOOD

In December, 1917, the cost of food in Britain had risen 106 per cent. above July 1914, just previous to the war. Where would it have gone without prices being fixed in many commodities by the Food Controller? The increase in wages varied from 20 per cent. to 60 per cent. over 1914.

—LABOR GAZETTE

What Our Members Say

Short, Snappy Letters for Publication from our Members will be Gladly Received

THE FARMERS' UNION GOVERNMENT

Craigmyle, Jan. 30th, 1918.

Editor, NON-PARTISAN:—
Looking over the platform of the Union Government I fail to see anything in it that promises tariff reductions, and I am sure those farmers who voted Union Government are not fair in clamoring for a reduction of the tariff on agricultural implements. According to our friend from Delia, "Winning the War" is the first and only thing to do. The tariff and all the other economic questions were to be left till after the war. That is what those farmers voted for when they cast their ballots in favor of the supposed Union Government.

The seventh plank in the Union Government platform says:—The development of transportation facilities, the co-operation and management of the various railways so as to insure economy of operation. So you see the Union Government proposes to increase the freight rates 15 per cent. I surmise by that increase that the Union Government believes they are economizing on operating expenses. The "Grain Growers' Guide" advocated the Union Government, and the Farmers' Platform which had been endorsed by every farmers' organization in Western Canada was to be dropped till after the war.

That being so, the Union Government composed chiefly of solicitors and get-rich-quick politicians have a perfect right to leave the tariff where it is. Again, if the Union Government believe that by raising the tariff on agricultural implements 15 per cent., it will tend to the winning of the war, surely those farmers who fell over themselves to vote for the Union cannot object.

The 10th plank in the Union Government platform calls for:—The encouragement of co-operation among those engaged in production in view to diminishing the cost of production. The answer to that is the proposed importation of Chinese labor.

The gentleman who brought the "Greetings of Saskatchewan" to the United Farmers' Convention in Calgary, stated that the farmers of Saskatchewan had voted solid for Union Government. Whether that gentleman intended that statement as a warning to the Farmers of Alberta of the effect that the camouflage had in the recent elections, or as a compliment to the intelligence of the Farmers of Saskatchewan is problematical.

Mr. Chipman of the "Grain Growers' Guide," told us at the convention that the U.F.A. representing 17,000 farmers, had less influence at Ottawa than the bankers. It seems kind of out of proportion that the Grain Growers' Guide should preach the doctrine of Union Government, knowing that the Government they advocated would not be representative of the farmers' interests.

The time will come again when wheat will drop to the 30c a bushel mark when we farmers won't know where our next sack of flour is coming from. It is then and not till then that the farmers of Western Canada will vote solid to forever rid this Canada of ours of the old party politicians, whose one object is to get rich quick irrespective of the wishes of the common people.

Craigmyle, Alta.

E. E. COLE,

GET CONTROL OF GOVERNMENT

Editor, NON-PARTISAN:—

The U.F.A. Convention of 1918 has come and gone. It was a great gathering of representative farmers from the whole province. There were also a great crowd of visitors and farm women, which goes to show that great interest is now taken in this farmers' movement.

During the four days of the Convention we listened to a great number of fine speeches, mostly delivered by non-farmers, but which were very instructive and fine, nevertheless. The usual string of resolutions were passed; some of them very good. These were turned over to the Executive to be taken up with the Government. Then we all left for home, feeling we had done our duty; and when we return again next year we expect to see every resolution passed at the Convention, carried out. And right here is where we will experience some disappointment.

It is very true that the U.F.A. is recognized as a strong force in this Province, by the powers that be, and no doubt some of our demands of lesser importance will be carried out by our Provincial Government. But the greatest obstacles that we are fighting against, those measures that, if carried out, would cut into the profits of our financial barons, will not be remedied simply because the money lords of Canada who have full control of our Dominion Government will do everything possible, for the farmers, except get off our backs. The time has come when it must be plain to every earnest student of our present system of society, to every farmer seeking after truth, that along with our splendid economic Union we must have political power.

In short, we must elect men from our own ranks to the Provincial and Dominion Governments, and have these under our own control so we can be sure our demands will be taken care of when we send them to Ottawa or Edmonton.

—J. GLAMBECK.

"FOR A BETTER WORLD"

Mr. Editor:—

Am glad to get copies of your paper. Its spirit is fine for such times as we are living in, and I trust your gospel will help to speedily bring in a better day.

The world is shaking to its very foundation, and the old pagan idea that "Might is Right" is being practised all over the world. Capitalism is on the throne and with all his hirelings still fooling the people to make our beautiful world into a suffering hell.

But the false politician prophets cannot forever cheat the crowd with "hocus-pocus tricks." Nothing has been left undone by the enemies of freedom and right. The day is coming when we, the producing classes, demand our share as citizens of the world.

Yours for a better world,

Kingman, Alta. —S. M. HEIL.

OUR ARTIST AN EDUCATOR

Dear Editor:—

I wish to express my enthusiasm on the nobby cartoons published in last issue. The humor was especially good and very suitable.

Calgary.

—F. H. GOODMAN.

THE COMMUNITY SPIRIT

EDITOR NON-PARTISAN:

I would like to express my appreciation of the courage and patient spirit of perseverance exhibited by Mr. D. H. Galbraith in his article, "The Need of the Future," in the last issue of the Non-Partisan. There is just one note of despondency finds place there that I think one might take exception to. He says: "There is an appalling lack of interest in public affairs and the community spirit is dead." It is not at all likely that Mr. Galbraith meant that statement to be taken in its absolute sense.

The community spirit is of somewhat recent birth. Its life, as yet, is feeble. It needs nurture and nourishment, and our political campaigns do not, as a rule, furnish very much of either. Most of our politicians are, ill-trained and ill-adapted to the care and nurture of the public conscience, and badly equipped for the shedding of light on questions of community and national welfare. But in spite of that fact, I am sure that what we designate as the "community spirit" is a living thing—an infant perhaps—but one whose life and growth is well assured. In confirmation of this conclusion, note the organization of forums, and the spread of the forum movement, whose sole purpose is to arouse interest in questions affecting community well-being.

The social service department of church work is another evidence of life in the community spirit. In educational circles too, the aim to make the schools a centre of community service shows the germ of community spirit making effort to express itself in action in the field of education. Efforts in co-operation of a feeble and sporadic character perhaps, but nevertheless which betoken the community spirit at work, make frequent appearance.

Each for all, and all for each is a high ideal, and its achievement is in the far future, but the leaven is even now at work.

A WORKING WOMAN.

WORTH PUBLISHING

Agincourt, Ont., Jan. 5, 1918.

DEAR MR. GALBRAITH:

Just a word of good will and congratulation. I was very glad to hear of your splendid run in the last Federal election. You are coming to your own.

Rural Canada requires parliamentary representatives who understand both national and rural conditions. No matter how things go in the immediate future, it will be rural Canada that will determine the Dominion's destiny. Hence, the welcome given by men who think to men like yourself, who at the risk of personal leisure and fortune, offer all they have for the welfare of their brothers.

May your power never wane,

Yours fraternally,

JAMES ANTHONY.

"ADVOCATES FREE THOUGHT?"

Bearberry, Alberta, Jan. 12th.

Gentlemen:—
I have a copy of THE ALBERTA NON-PARTISAN, and am sending you subscription to have my name on your list for free thought always, and mailed to above address. I admire the grit and sand in men like you, who endeavor to uphold the rights of the working men and women of to-day.

Yours truly,
CHAS. H. CHURCH

NON-PARTISAN TOPICS

THE PROVINCIAL POLICE

To THE EDITOR NON-PARTISAN:

The recent convention of the U.F.A. has come and gone. The numerous delegates have returned to their respective homes full of hopes for the coming year, realizing, no doubt, the importance of their organization, and quite confident I presume, that the many resolutions passed will "in the fullness of time," yield an abundant harvest of good results. It is not my intention to criticize this splendid convention which has just completed its interesting sessions in our city; but with your kind permission, would offer a few stray thoughts on one of their many resolutions, and on some of the remarks which are reported to have been made when that particular resolution was spoken to.

I refer to the resolution regarding the provincial police, and in which the convention asks for the return of the R.N.W.M.P. It is quite unnecessary to quote from these speeches. They were well and truthfully reported, I believe, so that your many readers are well informed as to what was said and done. Therefore, we will come to the subject at once. The U.F.A. convention asks for the return of the R.N.W.M.P. Why? Echo gives the only answer. Let us consider that the provincial police has been in existence for less than eleven months. Also, it is a new departure for the province and, on that ground alone, it should be given consideration. However, let us look further. All the officers are ex-mounted policemen of many years' experience; seventy-five per cent. of the rank and file come from the same source. The new force is conducted along the same lines and, in many respects, is a duplicate of the old mounted police system and methods. This may, or may not, be commendable, for the reason that a system that served the needs of the people twenty years ago may be out of date today, and some radical changes might now be required to meet conditions of the day. Be that as it may, the fact remains that every new move, every change, every departure from the old-established ideas always meets with opposition and criticism. It would be surprising, and most unusual, were it otherwise. And, the reception given to the provincial police force is no exception to the rule.

Who are the prime agitators behind this movement to go back to the old order of things? All the other provinces of the Dominion have their own police. Why should Alberta avoid the responsibility? Surely now, today, when playing politics is unfashionable, there cannot be any political significance in the "agonizing appeal" which is reported to have gone up from the U.F.A. convention a few short days ago. Nor can it be possible, surely, that certain gentlemen, one-time members of the R.N.W.M.P. are feeling sore because they failed to secure all the higher and most lucrative positions which were created by the establishment of the new force. Again, much criticism has been directed against the provincial police (not by the U.F.A.) because of its failure, up to the present, to bring the slayer of Const. Duncan to justice. Did the R.N.W.M.P. always bring home the "bacon"? (Those were ante-flavell days, too, when "porkers" had not yet taken wings.) Let the records tell the tale. I venture to say that during the past eight years there

have been committed half a dozen murders in this province, the perpetrators of which are still at large, and the mystery surrounding each and every case remains as yet unsolved. Then, again, why saddle the whole responsibility upon the provincial police? The Duncan murder was essentially a city case. The City of Calgary has a police force. Is it totally blameless in this matter? And, is the provincial police force to be made the "goat" for the obvious reason of directing criticism away from others?

It must be admitted, however, that the Alberta provincial police force is today, and has been since its inception, totally inadequate to meet the needs of rural Alberta. It is certainly under strength, consisting, as it does, of only 125 men of all ranks to cover and patrol this immense province from the International Boundary to the Great Slave Lake. Compare that with the latter days of the Mounted Police regime, when there were 250 men spread over the same territory—just twice the size, numerically, of the present provincial force.

No, the remedy does not lie in the reinstatement of the R.N.W.M.P., but rather in the increasing of the present provincial force. At the next session of the legislature let the Police Commission be authorized to increase the force to 200 men. Increase, also, the wages of the rank and file consistent with a decent standard of living; organize the force along the lines that are in keeping with our other democratic institutions; cut out the red tape, if there is any, and the results cannot be other than satisfactory.

Another thing worthy of attention. The character of the men who go to make up not only the rank and file, but the higher official positions as well. Common sense, good judgment, backed up and supported by a moral character, together with a high sense of duty, these are the requisite qualities of a good police officer. The mere fact that a man belonged at some remote period in the world's history to a police force proves nothing, unless he is in possession of these qualities mentioned. I submit that the way to improvement lies in increasing the strength and efficiency of the present force, and not in bringing back any R.N.W.M.P., efficient as that outfit may have been in the days that are no more.

JIRNEY JIM.

* * *

ECHOES FROM THE CONVENTION

By U.F.A.'er

We take off our hats to Prof. Swanson, who was one of the few speakers who did not say he was raised on a farm.

Was Jim Weir-y, or was he retired?

Was it a paying proposition for R.B.B. to talk Red Cross and take up valuable time, when passing the hat no doubt would have got around \$92 according to the other collections?

The Goose Lake Branch is now known as the Wild Goose Line, comes in in the spring, and goes out in the fall.

Funny, isn't it, the people of Canada have carried the G.T.P. and C.N.R. for years, gave a good chunk of land to the C.P.R. and a present of taxes on same.

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LIFE AND WORK

A NEW MILLENNIALIST.

It is a truism that the world knows little of its greatest men, and though the name of Garabed T. K. Giragossian is as yet unwritten on the scroll of fame, if reports from Washington are to be relied upon, and who would doubt the authenticity of anything emanating from a city bearing the honored name of one whom the school-boy described as the eighth wonder of the world, "an American who never told a lie," then the owner of this unpronounceable name is destined to go down in history along with such benefactors of the human race as Watt, Stephenson, Marconi, Krupp and Zeppelin.

According to the "Morning Albertan," of January 23rd, Mr. (or should it be—Signor or Herr) Giragossian claims to "possess the power of ending the war, to hold the key to almost complete human comfort, to know the secret to make unnecessary the expenditure of toil to produce energy, to revolutionize the whole world system of doing things, to impart to society the means by which the now dense wilderness may be made habitable, by which the need for labor will be cut in half, and by which mankind will be delivered from an age of work and care into an age of ease and happiness."

Never surely since those bright days, now faded into the dim and distant past, when the Dingman well gushed oil over a thirsty land, have such high hopes been raised in the human breast.

"To end the war,"—what gallant and futile efforts the phrase recalls. Was it a year, or two or three years since, that that other great inventor, Henry Ford, sailed forth with his little band of pilgrims, burning with high hope, their avowed aim being to get the boys out of the trenches by Christmas? Is it months, or years, since that famous group of "international financiers" met together at Berne, with the like object of bringing peace in our time, oh Lord, lest worse evils than universal war between nations might befall? And, did not representatives of international labor likewise foregather at Stockholm, with a similar object in view, or was permission withheld from international labor and granted only to international finance?

Be that as it may, the war still goes on, awaiting the advent of Garabed T. K. Giragossian to ride the whirlwind and direct the storm.

Not content with conferring upon a war-weary world the boon of peace, Mr. Giragossian claims further to possess a secret which will make unnecessary the expenditure of toil to produce energy, and by which the need for labor will be cut in half.

But this gives us pause, methinks we have heard something of this sort before, for have not the multitudinous inventions of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries all been described as "labor saving," yet labor, like the poor, is still with us, and despite the fact that the expenditure of toil has been rendered more or less "unnecessary," most of us are today toiling at least as hard as did our forefathers.

And should the need for labor be cut in half, what is to become of that half of the world's population thus thrown out of a job, while the awful thought strikes us, what if Mr. Giragossian should go a step further, like the famous son of Erin, who, when told that a certain patent stove would save half his coal, undertook to take two and save it all. What if this

mighty genius should conceive an improvement upon his scheme, whereby the need for labor might be cut out altogether, and every mother's son of us the world over should thus be forced into the ranks of the unemployed. Here's the rub, which makes us rather bear the ills we have, than fly to others that we know not of.

To be delivered from an age of work and care, into an era of ease and happiness, 'tis a consummation devoutly to be wished, but are we not continually being admonished by our moralists that, in the words of that brilliant essayist, Price Collier, "whenever the individual or any class in the community balks at labor, at pain, at sacrifice, you have in that individual or that class a menace to the community and to the state." And have we not only recently been told by that great statesman, Dr. Michael Clark, that work, service and sacrifice, constitute, for the masses at least, the only means of salvation?

And so once more we turn our backs on the delightful vista of a world free from work and care, once again, in a devout spirit of service and sacrifice, we decline to emulate the lilies of the field, which toil not neither do they spin, once more we mount the treadmill to perform our daily grind, consigning to a distant and hazy hereafter that golden age "when man works no more."

Meanwhile, we note with pleasure that "President Wilson himself has found time to listen to Giragossian, and letters he has written to the inventor indicate that he is far from being skeptical of the man's assertion." We are sorry that our time is more precious than President Wilson's—the whistle is blowing and we must get back to work.

* * *

A NEW CANADIAN POET

Very often it is worth more to know what is worth reading than what a book costs. A lady gave me a small volume of modern poetry—"Songs from a Young Man's Land," by Clive Phillips-Wolley, asking me to review it.

The task has been a pleasure. I find that his vision is broad; his style is vigorous and concise; his dictions are sound; his pictures are vivid; and his sentiments are inspiring.

By all intelligent Canadians who are lovers of Nature; who sympathize with the struggling masses; who admire and respect the heroic pioneers—the empire builders, and who are imbued with an unselfish national spirit, this volume will be very much appreciated.

A few quotations will be more substantial evidence of the poet's merit than anything I can say:

"Ah then, won't you come, coquette?
must we weary for you yet?
Won't you teach the world a quickstep,
put a rose behind its ear?
Won't you sing us all the silly songs that
coax us to forget?
Sow a hope in every bosom and a rainbow
in each tear?"

* * *

"They have held uncounted cattle
When the nights were dark as doom;
They have played with Arctic rapids for
their lives;
They have known the pinch of hunger
And the chill of forest gloom
And the struggle where the strong alone
survives."

JOHN GALLOWAY.
Ft. Saskatchewan, Alta.

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REAL CONSERVATION

By Agricola

The elimination of waste energy and the utilization of the energy thereby conserved, viewed economically, is a consummation devoutly to be wished even under normal conditions, but to-day is imperatively necessary according to the exhortations enunciated by the leaders of thought throughout the Dominion. The question the ordinary citizen asks himself is—do they really and truly mean what they urge with so much iteration or are they merely disciples of Partia, able to show twenty men the way to Heaven whilst preferring to tread the primrose path of dalliance themselves? The suggestion "eat less" when by far the preponderating majority of our citizens are compelled to practice the most rigid economy at all times must appeal to those possessed of a scintilla of a sense of humor. An alliterative phrase descriptive to this tribe would be "Pecksniffian panacea peddlers."

There is decidedly more virility in the slogan, "Produce." It savours of constructive force and is worthy of consideration. The world shortage of foodstuffs is no mere figment of imagination but a constantly growing menace to humanity. What steps are to be taken to prevent the threatened catastrophe? "Why, produce, produce," say the powers that be. Despite the fact that it is mere repetitions again the question arises: "Do they really and truly mean what they urge?" If so, then every obstacle to a full accomplishment will be removed even though a numerically small percentage may be inconvenienced as a result.

The wheat the farmer produces on this continent is sold in the open market against its world competitors, whereas, practically all the instruments used in the agricultural industry through tariff imports enhance the cost of production and act as a very heavy handicap against the object of the hour—i.e., World relief from starvation.

To raze the tariff wall of every item that enters into the production of wheat would be proof positive to the agriculturist that the exordium "to produce" was not a mere hollow sound but was sincerely meant. It is quite true that such drastic action would meet with most vigorous opposition from those whose material interests were affected still weighed in the balance as against the benefit resulting it would be but an X quantity.

We have all read the legend of the loss of a kingdom for lack of a horse-shoe nail and a like analogy may be drawn between the starvation of millions as against a temporary financial loss to a few thousands.

Free machinery would give such an impetus to cultivation that, provided Dame Nature was in her 1915 mood, past bumper crops would fade into insignificance and a high-water mark would be reached that would make the phrase "North America, the World's Granary" a verity of verities.

There is another factor that enters into the question worthy of more than passing consideration which although it would entail some sacrifice to individuals should not and probably would not meet with the same strenuous opposition as undoubtedly our protectionist friends would evince.

Every pint of lubricating oil and every gallon of gasoline used for any purpose where not absolutely imperative means a possible decrease in grain production be-

cause the demand during the plowing as well as the harvesting season last year thousands of Western farmers can testify, was so great that they were not able to obtain the supply as expeditiously as they ought to have been. These drawbacks had their corresponding effect upon the sum total of the crop.

The limitation of the uses of both lubricating and refined oils is within the province of the fuel controller by whom regulations could be so framed which would not hamper any essential undertaking but, on the contrary materially aid the agriculturist to comply with the demands made upon him.

Gratuitous advice and kindly suggestions have their place in the scheme of things, but to-day the recipients of the "Produce, produce!" slogan would prefer more concrete assistance from their counsellors.

The foregoing observations are merely surface skimming in so far as what might be done in the way of helping out the existing situation in the realm of production, and yet if made operative during the period of the war the advantages accruing would far outweigh the injury caused. This must be conceded by everyone who will make a thoroughly impartial analysis.

To sum up let us range the parties affected on the Debit and Credit side:—

Dr.—Manufactures of practical machinery, Customs officials, pleasure automobilists.

Cr.—Agriculturists, transportation agencies, millions of consumers, oil producers.

* * *

"THE DOOM OF KAISERISM"

Dr. Charles Sarolea, who has lectured in Calgary and is well acquainted with German questions, says in his new book, "German Problems and Personalities," that though it is scarcely likely rebellion will come in Germany while hostilities

continue, yet it is his firm belief that it will come on conclusion of the war. "The day is drawing near when the German army will become a terror to their tyrants. The Kaiser and his military staff are doomed. There is no need of a knock-out blow to overthrow Kaiserism in Germany."

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TUESDAY

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—IN—

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WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

ELSIE FERGUSON

—IN—

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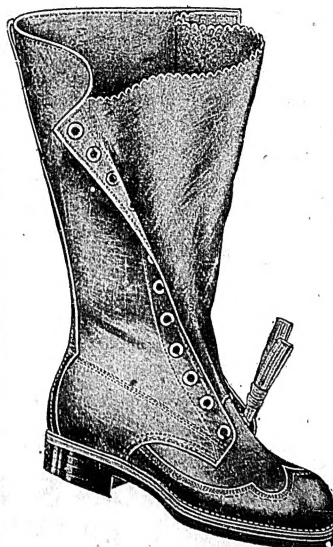
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What The World Is Saying

THE ASSASSINATION OF OPINION

"Give me the right to know, to utter, and to argue freely according to conscience, above all other liberties."—JOHN MILTON.

For some time past the right of free speech and meeting has been forcibly suppressed in London and over a large part of the country. It began with sporadic acts of illegal violence, planned by politicians of the press, using as their tools a very few Colonial soldiers and some local "Hooligans," and connived at by the police and the Government.

Recently it has grown into a system for the repression of the discussion of any topic upon which these self-constituted arbiters place their ban. The system is applied not only to public meetings but to private conferences. The usual method is for certain journals to give prominence to announcements of these meetings, with false descriptions of their object, and incitements to "loyal" citizens to attend and make their protests. Having thus ensured disorder, the agents of this policy inform the police that if the meeting is held, disorder will occur. The police then warn the lessees of the hall, and announce their inability to enforce order and protect property.

This method of repression is applied, not only to the theoretic discussions of matters relating to war and peace, but to gatherings for any other object attended by certain persons or organized by certain societies. Two recent instances have been the suppression of a reception to be given by the United Suffragists of a purely private character, and of a series of lectures arranged by the Guild Socialists upon industrial problems.

These attacks on free speech have throughout been accompanied by seizures of certain publications, raids upon private houses and upon societies, and prosecutions for speeches or leaflets under the Defence of the Realm Act. This governmental activity hitherto sporadic and directed to particular cases, the last few days has been converted into a general and all-pervading system for the censorship and forcible suppression of all opinion unfavorable to the government in their conduct of matters relating to "the present war or the making of peace;" that is, to any matter of moment to the country.

But a far graver menace to liberty is conveyed in the new regulation, establishing for the first time a censorship upon opinion. Hitherto, it has been open to anyone to publish what he chooses, and to take the risk of prosecution in case the matter that he has published is found to contravene the law. Now he is compelled in heavy penalty to submit beforehand to an official of the Press Bureau any leaflet or pamphlet "relating to the present war or to the making of peace."

The Censor has not to prove that his matter contravenes the Defence of the Realm Act, or any other law. He can refuse permission, without giving any reason, merely because he dislikes the person or the contents.

—"THE NATION"

BERNARD SHAW'S CHRISTMAS CARD

"Courage, friend! We all loathe Christmas, but it comes only once a year, and is soon over."

PATRONAGE EVILS

Dear Editor:—

In the letter that appeared in your last issue, under the heading "The Most Obvious Reform," the word "proposing" should read "opposing." Of course the readers of THE NON-PARTISAN would know this was a mistake.

I have before me an article which appeared in one of the leading daily papers of our country, dated Ottawa, January the twenty-ninth, under the heading: "To Kill Patronage in Civil Service, Important Reforms Contemplated in Outside Departments." It's not necessary to take up too much of your valuable space by referring to the whole report, but in dealing with the headlines above: Why should the Government stop, with the outside departments, the evil is from within and killing patronage as contemplated in the report is like killing a snake, by destroying its warning rattles and leaving the sting. The reform as announced is to abolish patronage and to make appointments to the public service upon the sole standard of merit. What are the members of the Government? But public servants—at least they tell us so at election time—and if they were sincere in killing patronage they would reform or amend the Election Act as well as the Civil Service Act, and make it unlawful for a candidate to go outside his own riding to support another or to receive support from outside.

The article ends by stating: "The members of the Government are fully impressed with the vast importance of the proposed reform, which will be fully and unhesitatingly carried out." Yes! as proposed—but if this Act meant to kill patronage right through, I dare say that some of the members would not only hesitate, but would stop entirely, for, tell me, how do most of our members get there, but by patronage. I mean by this, with the support of fluent speakers from whatever part of the country they may be found; and this is the worst part of the patronage system.

The letter which appeared in your issue of January the eighteenth, under the heading of, "The Most-Obvious Reform," shows some of the evils of this system.

—D. J. A. MACAULAY.
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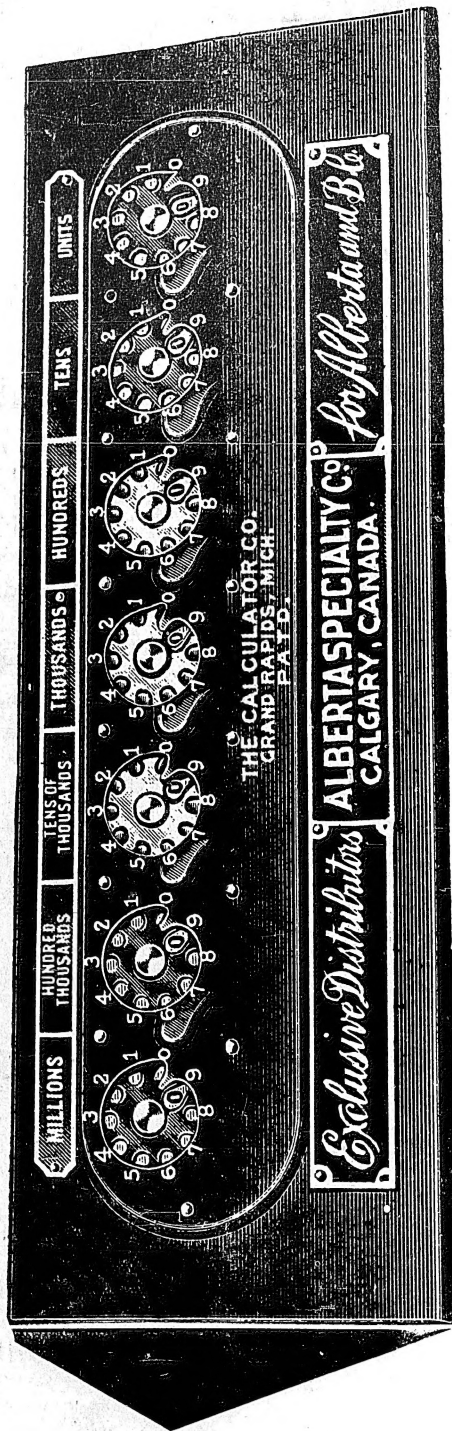


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